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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please subscribe to  
receive future print  
issues of BLM-Alaska  
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# BLM Campbell Tract Celebrates Winter Trails Day 2008

A great idea just keeps getting better



Thom Jennings

"To see entire families, people of all ages, spending quality time in the outdoors here at Campbell Tract... enjoying the fresh snow and the joy of trying out a new winter sport—that's priceless. That's what Winter Trails Day is all about."

—Doug Ballou  
*BLM outdoor recreation  
planner*

An estimated 800 outdoor enthusiasts converged on the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center on Saturday, Feb. 16, to do what Alaskans love to do after a week of new snowfall: go out and play!

BLM teamed up with event partner, REI, to host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Trails Day at the Campbell Tract in Anchorage. The first Winter Trails Day at Campbell Tract in 2004 drew roughly 100 visitors. Word quickly spread about this golden opportunity to sample the latest in winter gear from REI at no charge, and each year the event continues to gain momentum.

On the morning of Feb. 16, visitors began arriving at the Science Center even before the staff safety briefing was over. Participants signed in at a greeting table and had their hands stamped by volunteers. This stamp allowed visitors to check out skis, snowshoes, geocaching equipment, avalanche transceivers, and more at various outdoor activity stations.

—continued on page 3

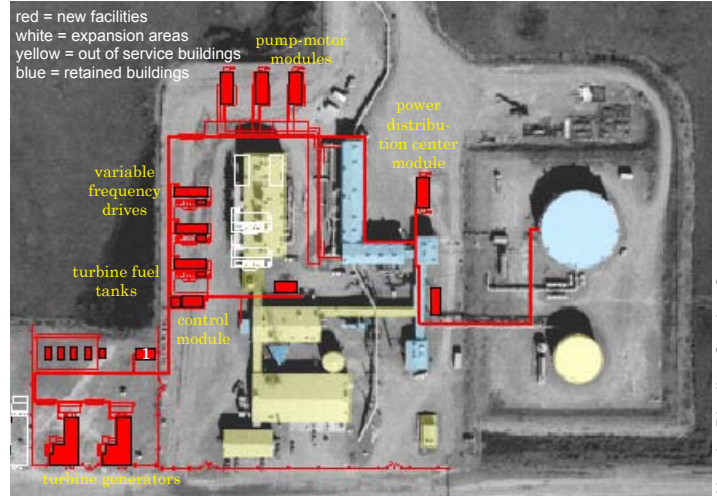
Alaska



# TRANS-ALASKA OIL PIPELINE

## Major upgrades to Pump Stations continue

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company



Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Pump stations on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System are the size of a small village (see above). Since 2001, the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company began upgrading the pump stations to automate operations and enhance efficiency, safety, integrity, and environmental performance of the pipeline as throughput continues to decline. The original system had 12 pump stations and operated like a full-time pump relay moving oil over 800 miles and three mountain ranges through a 48" pipe. The Strategic Reconfiguration project is upgrading the four remaining pump stations supporting the current throughput. Pump Station 9 was the first station to start up, with Pump Station 3 (in photo above) nearing completion. Currently the work is moving to Pump Station 4 and is slated for start-up in 2009. The last to be upgraded will be Pump Station 1.

The reconfiguration project involves new modular equipment that can adjust to the amount of oil production. Automation allows a central Operations Control Center in Anchorage to operate the system instead of individually-manned pump station control centers. Two maintenance centers will house baseline crews for all maintenance and emergency response activities. Older buildings and equipment will eventually be dismantled as the new equipment takes over, although the original legacy equipment remains in place as a back-up for now. The Joint Pipeline Office continues to monitor the new equipment issues at the pump stations.

—Laura Chase contributed to this report.  
lchase@jpo.doi.gov

## Shelters, Vehicles, Caches: Posted for Removal

BLM-Alaska needs the help of people who may have left unauthorized property on public lands managed by the BLM. This property might include temporary or permanent shelters, pads, lean-tos, abandoned vehicles, and caches or stashed personal items. If you have left anything of that nature, the BLM asks that you remove the property or visit your nearest BLM office to work out a method or timeline for resolving the situation.

The BLM will continue to post notification signs on unauthorized property. The owner then has one year from the date of posting to remove the property or work out the best resolution of the unauthorized use with the BLM. If the property is still on

public land at the end of one year and the owner hasn't contacted the agency, the BLM will likely remove it.

If you have any questions about property on public lands or about this process, or are unsure about land status, please contact your local BLM office for more information. Each case will be evaluated independently and within current BLM plan provisions, policies and regulations.

*Also check out the article on Land Transfers on page 10.*

—Marnie Graham  
marnie\_graham@blm.gov



Glennallen Field Office



Glennallen Field Office

**A BLM Glennallen Field Office employee prepares an abandoned vehicle for removal. Removed vehicles are crushed and recycled.**



## WINTER TRAILS DAY 08

—continued from page 1

“This event lets visitors sample winter outdoor gear they may not be familiar with, or try a new outdoor activity or winter sport,” Ballou explains. “They also get to talk to user groups who can share techniques and ideas for getting the most from that activity.”

Inside the Science Center, volunteers from 12 partner organizations staffed information booths where visitors could learn more about winter adventure preparedness, hypothermia prevention, avalanche awareness, and backcountry safety. Visitors of all ages, with rosy cheeks and warm smiles, wandered through the Science Center between various outdoor activities to chat with others, or grab a hot beverage and cookies.

While the primary goal of Winter Trails Day is to promote safe, responsible outdoor winter sports and recreation, Ballou says it also helps trail enthusiasts connect with other users.

“By working with user groups, we build partnerships that benefit both the trail system and the user,” he explains. Ballou works with partner groups on a number of trail maintenance projects for the 730-acre Campbell Tract throughout the year.

But on Feb. 16, it wasn’t about work; it was about play. REI provided snowshoes, classic and skate skis, ski pulk equipment, winter camping gear, geocaching, and avalanche transceivers. Friendly and helpful staff showed visitors how to use the equipment, all at no charge. The Anchorage Skijor Club presented a skijor demonstration. There were many other opportunities to learn about outdoor recreation and safety.

“It’s a win-win event for all of us,” added a beaming Ballou. “To see entire families, people of all ages, spending quality time in the outdoors here at Campbell Tract, enjoying the fresh snow and the joy of trying out a new winter sport—that’s priceless. That’s what Winter Trails Day is all about.”

—Teresa McPherson, Anchorage Field Office  
teresa\_mcpherson@blm.gov

### Warm thanks...

*To event partner, REI, and these groups and organizations for their help on Winter Trails Day '08:*

- Alaska Avalanche School
- Alaska Geographic
- Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Assn.
- Alaska Trails
- Anchorage Equestrians
- Anchorage Parks and Recreation
- Anchorage Scoop the Poop Committee
- Anchorage Skijor Club
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Chugach National Forest Avalanche Info. Center
- Friends of Far North Bicentennial Park
- Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center
- Municipality of Anchorage
- Nordic Ski Assoc. of Anchorage
- Single Track Advocates
- Trail Watch
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region)



Thom Jennings

(above) Trying out cross-country skis at Winter Trails Day 2008 (below) Tackling the snowshoe obstacle course



Thom Jennings





## WINTER TRAILS DAY Photos



More scenes from Winter Trails Day 2008, from buckling on snowshoes, to rental ski boots, to the Alaska Avalanche School showing kids a simulated avalanche using sugar on a model of the Chugach Mountains. The new designation of the Campbell Tract Loop Trail as a National Recreation Trail made this year's event even more special.

## Friends Group Takes Root

The **Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center** just celebrated its second year of operation.

This 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization already has 80 members and raised more than \$71,000 to support Science Center programs. These funds support the Center's special events and help school children who can't afford the fees to attend Center programs.

Campbell Science Center manager Jeff Brune is thrilled with the group's support, as he explains, "The Friends group recently provided \$13,000 for scholarships and bus transportation. These funds will enable as many as 1,200 economically disadvantaged students to participate in hands-on learning programs at the Science Center."

In early 2007, the Friends group initiated a \$10,000 endowment with the Alaska Community Foundation. Recently, British Petroleum-Alaska presented the board with a \$10,000 challenge grant to further grow the endowment.



To meet this challenge, the Friends group is actively seeking contributions to the endowment fund.

Friends supports programs that engage students of all ages in experiential learning. The direct experience of natural ecosystems inspires curiosity, awe, and wonder in the natural world. Such appreciation and understanding is critical for the development of a stewardship ethic toward public lands, wildlife, and all wild places.

Friends volunteer at the Science Center and on the Campbell Tract by assisting with education programs, conducting ecosystem monitoring surveys, maintaining recreational trails, and working on habitat restoration projects.

For a brochure and more information about the Friends group or Campbell Creek Science Center, phone 907-267-1247 or visit [www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter.html)

-Teresa McPherson, BLM Anchorage Field Office  
teresa\_mcperson@blm.gov

# Yukon Quest #25: A Cold Tale



Craig McCaa

**25th Yukon Quest –The 1,000 mile Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race started in Fairbanks on Feb. 9, 2008. The race crosses BLM-Alaska lands in several places, including the Birch Creek National Wild River and Fortymile National Wild and Scenic River. This year's temperatures dipped as low as minus 60°F. Brent Sass of Fairbanks is running through the chute. Sass, 27, finished fifth and won the Challenge of the North award for the musher who best exemplifies the 'spirit of the Yukon Quest.'**

For a growing number of mushers and fans, the annual Yukon Quest International 1,000-mile Sled Dog Race is the “real” race, occurring during February—the coldest and most unpredictable time of the year—without the glitz and hoopla that surrounds the March Iditarod Sled Dog Race to Nome.

This year's 25th Yukon Quest started from Fairbanks on Feb. 9, 2008, and ended Feb. 20 in Whitehorse with a close race between four-time Quest winner Lance Mackey and Ken Anderson. Mackey finished in 10 days, 12 hours, and 14 minutes, only 15 minutes ahead of Anderson. Mackey went on to win his 2nd Iditarod.

This “top of the world” race through the Alaska and Yukon wilderness crisscrosses over BLM managed public land under special permit. Covering more than 1,000 miles and 10 official checkpoints following historic Gold Rush and Mail Delivery dog sled routes, this year's race saw temperatures dip to minus 60°F. The rough, sometimes hazardous race starts on schedule regardless of weather. It lasts from 10 to 16 days.

Mushers carry mandatory equipment, food and supplies at all times; start the race with no less than 8 and no more than 14 dogs; and must finish with no less than 6 dogs.



Craig McCaa

**Veteran Quest Musher Bill Cotter (16) of Nenana begins the Yukon Quest. Mushers crossed BLM-managed public lands along two national wild and scenic rivers, Birch Creek and the Fortymile River, on their way to the finish line in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.**





# IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL CENTENNIAL



Thom Jennings

At Mile Zero in Seward, Dan and Danny Seavey re-enact the first 1908 expedition pioneering the route that became the Iditarod Trail.

The year 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of Alaska Road Commission efforts to open an overland route from Seward to Nome. First scouted in 1908, crews worked through 1910-1911 in winter temperatures of minus 50°F to complete the Iditarod Trail. Within a year, thousands of gold-seekers hiked or mushed the government trail to the Iditarod gold fields, and gold-carrying sled dog teams became a regular sight on the trail.

By 1912, the population increases from the rush to the Last Frontier prompted Congress to elevate Alaska to Territorial status. Sixty-six years later, Congress designated the route as the **Iditarod National Historic Trail**.

BLM-Alaska is the lead agency responsible for managing the trail system. To commemorate these epic achievements of yesteryear, an interagency and partner working group, the Iditarod National Historic Trail Alliance, selected January 2008 through October 2012 as the official Trail Centennial. Communities along the Iditarod National Historic Trail are invited to make their own home-grown events celebrating the Centennial. For more information or assistance in event planning, contact Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance president Judy Bittner at [judy.bittner@gmail.com](mailto:judy.bittner@gmail.com), or go to [www.iditarod100.org](http://www.iditarod100.org).

—Kevin Keeler, BLM Iditarod Trail Coordinator  
[kkeeler@blm.gov](mailto:kkeeler@blm.gov)

(below) Volunteers carrying 1935 Antique Freight Sled



Kevin Keeler

## What a Winter Celebration!

### BLM, Town of Seward, and Governor Kick Off Iditarod Centennial

On the first weekend of February, one hundred hardy souls, including BLM Anchorage District Manager Gary Reimer, Anchorage Field Manager Mike Zaidlicz, and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, braved icy Resurrection Bay winds to launch the Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial.

In January 1908, the Alaska Road Commission's four-person expedition set out from Seward to pioneer the route that became the Iditarod Trail.

Two members of Seward's famous Seavey mushing family, dressed in period garb, led two dog teams pulling historic freight sleds. Dan Seavey, one of the founders of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and a board member of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, played the role of Colonel W. L. Goodwin, the historic expedition leader. Grandson Danny Seavey played the role of expedition member George Pulham.

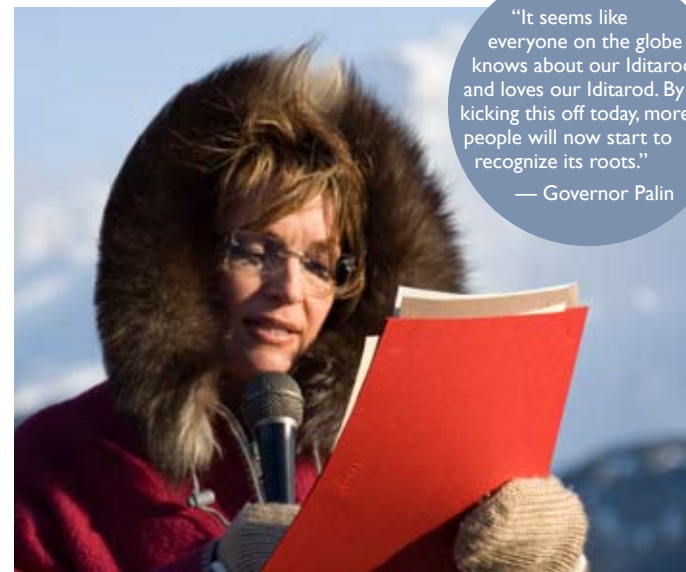
Dogsled rides were provided to all who braved the bitterly cold winds, while local and regional history experts made presentations about the Trail indoors.

The Anchorage kick off event occurred during the Ceremonial Start of the 2008 Iditarod Sled Dog Race on March 1, when Governor Palin also signed legislation establishing the first Saturday of every March as Susan Butcher Day.



For ongoing Centennial information, check out:

<http://www.iditarod100.org>

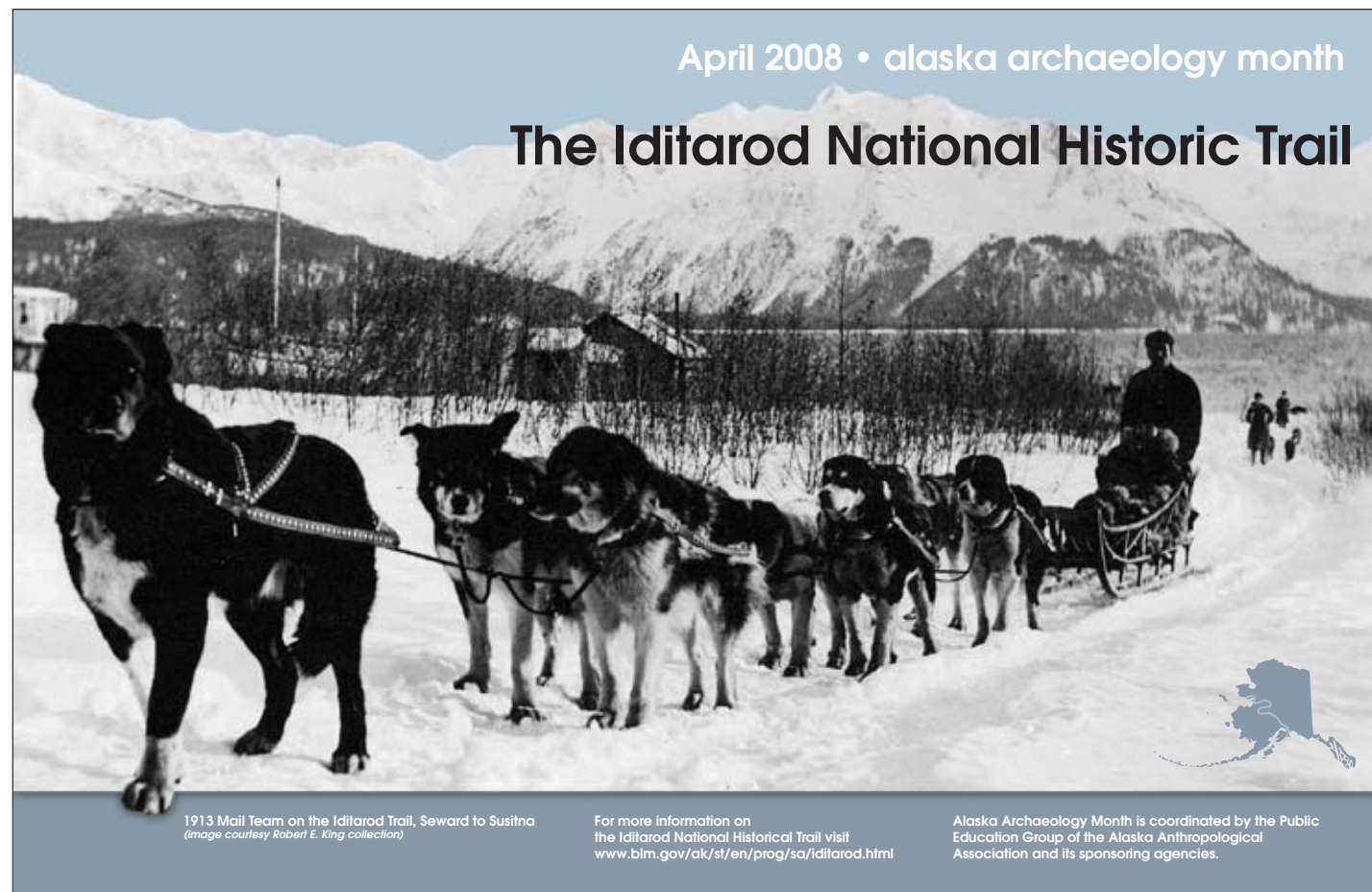


Thom Jennings

"It seems like everyone on the globe knows about our Iditarod and loves our Iditarod. By kicking this off today, more people will now start to recognize its roots."

— Governor Palin

Governor Sarah Palin issues her Executive Proclamation at the Iditarod National Historic Trail kickoff event in Seward on Feb. 2, designating 2008 thru 2012 as the official Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial.



## THE LAST GREAT GOLD RUSH TRAIL: 2008 ALASKA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH POSTER

This April's 2008 Alaska Archaeology Month poster celebrates the Iditarod National Historic Trail's centennial with "Traveling Through Time on the Iditarod Trail"—America's last great gold rush trail. The poster includes a detailed map that shows both the historic and modern trail, a unique photo collection and historical details (such as the above photo of a dog team and musher racing in 1913 along the Iditarod Trail south of Anchorage), and even images showing archaeological work along the trail. This poster is sure to become a popular collector's item throughout Alaska.

This year's Alaska Archaeology Month poster is sponsored by the Public Education Group of the Alaska Anthropological Association and its sponsoring agencies, with the U.S. Forest Service as the responsible rotating lead. The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology and the Mat-Su Borough contributed photos. BLM-Alaska provided considerable assistance in producing the poster and contributing text and photos. Posters will be available at the BLM's exhibit booth at the Great Alaska Sportsman Show. If you miss the show, contact Robert King, 907-271-5510 for information on where to get your poster.

—Robert King, BLM State Archaeologist  
[robert\\_king@blm.gov](mailto:robert_king@blm.gov)



# DENALI HIGHWAY ADVENTURE

A VISIT TO THE PAST, A VISIT FOR YOUR FUTURE



Karen J Laubenstein

The Denali Highway follows an ancient migration route through wild, untamed vistas that can thrust you back through time. There is a prehistoric feeling to the Denali Highway, from evidence of its glacial past and archaeological heritage (this area has 400 known archaeological sites dating back 10,000 years), to its rich gold rush history.

The main route to Denali National Park until 1972, the Denali Highway stretches 135 miles, with unpaved gravel all but 25 miles. At about 30 mph, the highway is best traveled leisurely, either behind the wheel or on a bike. The Denali Highway parallels the Alaska Range from the Richardson Highway at Paxson, west to Mile 210 of the George Parks Highway at Cantwell, through spectacular wilderness and high alpine tundra. A number of trails veer off the highway and stretch across the tundra.

Dominating the skyline are Mount Hayes at 13,832', Mount Hess at 11,940', and Mount Deborah at 12,339'. To the southeast from Paxson, are the Wrangell Mountains that include 12 of the more than 40 Alaskan peaks over 13,000 feet. Easily visible are Mount Sanford at 16,237', Mount Drum at 12,010', and the active volcanic Mount Wrangell at 14,163'. At mile 91 is the Maclaren River Lodge. Awe-inspiring views of Mount McKinley are visible as you near the eastern end of the highway. Just outside of Paxson, you can see the Gulkana and Gakona glaciers and remainders of ice floes that gouged the valleys. Small, circular ponds dotting the landscape developed when ice chunks broke from retreating glaciers and became buried in sediment. Nature continues to change the landscape. In Nov. 2002, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake split along the Denali fault, rattling Cantwell through Paxson.

**Spring** break-up doesn't happen early for the 133-mile Denali Highway, which usually opens in mid-May. Campgrounds and outhouses may remain frozen through mid-June.

Once open, the rugged, muddy, pot-holed, partially glaciated gravel road deserves considerable respect and patience. There is limited gas, food, and lodging available, but fishing, paddling, hiking, biking, nature photography, and wildlife/bird viewing opportunities abound.

Wind chill and dampness at this time of year can catch you off-guard, but also serve as the perfect motivator for warming yourself around a cozy

## Items to bring

In addition to normal outdoor survival and remote travel gear consider:

- Fresh drinking water (available at campgrounds June-Sept., campgrounds and wells may still be frozen in May)
- Portable toilets and toilet paper are few and far between, and outhouses may still be frozen in May/early June
- Campfire wood/camp stoves and fire starter/waterproof matches
- Extra food, gas, windshield washer fluid, and tires/temporary tire repair kit
- Mosquito repellent and head net, bear spray
- Camera, binoculars, GPS
- Wildlife/bird guidebooks and a journal
- Sun screen and sunglasses
- Multi-tool knife, duct tape
- Buckets and containers for berries (late July-August)
- Warm coat, hat, and gloves or mittens (fluorescent or highly visible outerwear is a good idea during Aug.-Oct. hunting season)
- Containers to pack out what you bring in (zip-shut bags, large trash bags, etc.)

## Helpful Hints

Pack an empty coffee can with a roll of toilet paper, bottle of rubbing alcohol, and matches. The toilet paper acts as a wick, absorbs excess alcohol, and the alcohol burns clean. The can keeps toilet paper intact and the alcohol is handy for disinfecting a wound.

If there is no outhouse or portable toilet, make sure you are at least 200 feet from any waterway, dig at least six inches and bury your solid waste, or carry it out in a plastic bag to dispose of appropriately. Burn or pack used toilet paper.

Drive with your headlights on at all times.

A human can survive longer without food, but only several days or less without water. Stay dry; wetness promotes hypothermia.

**ALWAYS** let someone know where you are going, your timetable, and your expected time of return.

## DENALI HIGHWAY

—continued from page 8

campfire. When the coffee finishes percolating, it's time to fill your thermos and grab your fly rod. Grayling will leap at your bait as they try to make up for the scarcity of food they have endured all winter. (*Check with Alaska Department of Fish and Game regarding fishing seasons and restrictions.*)

**Summer** along the Denali highway occurs in late June through the first part of August, when it is abundant with green vegetation and the sounds and activities of flitting birds—or are those mosquitoes? The weather can turn instantly—be prepared for anything! When it's great, the most spectacular blue sky will be underscored by the Alaska Range and the seamlessly everlasting expanse of boreal forest. Paradoxically, you can find yourself hovering under your tent's rain fly, between your bicycle and a willow bush, seeking shelter from a pounding, horizontal sleet.

**Fall** (subsistence season) is full of colorful splashes and streaks of cranberry and gold, pinned by the occasional green of jagged spruce, extending up the mountain slopes, painting an unforgettable landscape. This can only mean one thing...blueberries! And lots of them!



Karen J Laubenstein

*Here's a tip: Walk at least 30 feet from the trail to find dust-free berries. Watch for bears!*

In August, September and October, expect to encounter moose and caribou hunters who are finding food to sustain their families through the long winter to come.

—Marnie Graham  
marnie\_graham@blm.gov

## Overbaugh Receives Prestigious Mardy Murie Award

It's a rare day when you'll find outdoor recreation specialist Bill Overbaugh off BLM managed public lands and in the office. Many think he has the best job in BLM-Alaska, as he manages the agency's recreation program.

On Feb. 20, 2008, Overbaugh came in from the cold to receive the prestigious Margaret "Mardy" Murie award for his BLM recreation work and continuing contributions to the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association, a nature-based nonprofit association that Overbaugh's been affiliated with for more than 10 years.



Pam Eldridge

The association's annual Mardy Murie award goes to an Alaska land manager who has provided outstanding support to the association and the nature-based tourism industry. Murie was the first woman graduate of the University of Alaska, nicknamed the 'Grandmother of the Conservation Movement,' and received a Presidential Medal of Honor. She wrote, "Please allow Alaska to be different, to be herself, to nourish our souls."

The Muries were instrumental in helping protect what is now known as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Their legacy lives on through these awards, and in every person able to watch the sun dip behind Mount McKinley, or a brown bear catch a salmon from a clear mountain stream.

Overbaugh says the Murie award is special for him, since it comes from the private business sector and an association that shares the BLM recreation program's values—sensitivity to local communities, back-country user ethics, stewardship and sustainability.

"We have these values in common," Overbaugh points out, "so it makes sense to work together to pro-

duce these outcomes for the public good."

Overbaugh has provided technical and professional support to the association, from conducting outfitter permits and fees workshops, to presentations on recreation benefits-based management, stewardship, gateway communities, visitor ethics, and the *Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly* programs.

"There is more than just a business relationship of permits and fees between the outfitters and guides of the association and BLM," Overbaugh explains. "There is a partnership that extends to providing quality service, distinctive recreation settings, desired recreation experiences, and realization of life-enriching benefits to people, communities, economies and ecological environments."

*The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association represents more than 300 nature-based tourism businesses, individuals, and organizations in Alaska. On the web, the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association is at <http://www.awrta.org/index.cfm>.*

—Danielle Allen  
Danielle\_Allen@blm.gov





## BLM Website makeover Complete



You may notice the BLM-Alaska and other BLM Web sites look much different from a year ago. BLM is now using a content management system to manage its Web sites. BLM-Alaska's homepage Web address has changed to:

**[www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html)**

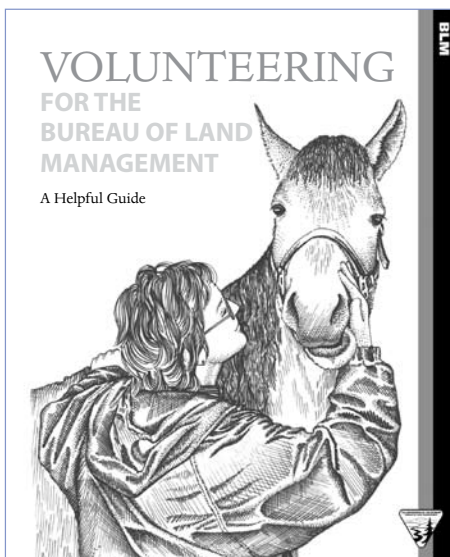
([www.blm.gov/ak](http://www.blm.gov/ak) will also direct you to BLM-Alaska's home page)

All Web pages have completely new addresses. Take time to explore the new Web site and redo your bookmarks and favorite pages.

Nationally, BLM is striving for a more consistent look, standardizing online information, and making the information more accessible for all its Web sites.

If you're having a hard time finding your favorite page about oil and gas, recreation, rivers, or BLM programs, just search our site or click on the Site Map link found in the footer of every Web page. You can also make suggestions or notify us of any errors through that link.

Vanessa Rathbun  
[vanessa\\_rathbun@blm.gov](mailto:vanessa_rathbun@blm.gov)



Available on the Web -  
<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/res/Volunteer.html>  
or <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov/>

# MANAGING YOUR LANDS:

## What's happening with Resource Management Plans?

Land use planning is helping the BLM meet its mandate to manage its lands for multiple use and sustained yield. The BLM uses Resource Management Plans (RMP) for on-the-ground actions and develops Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to ensure that activities on its lands meet environmental standards.

"BLM's land use planning process ensures that our land use decisions are based on both sound science and input from other agencies and the public," explains Jolie Pollet, Alaska's Lead Planning and Environment Coordinator. "2007 was a productive year for BLM-Alaska land use planning, and 2008 will be as well, with several plans at or near completion, and more upcoming." Pollet added, "BLM-Alaska's upcoming land use plans will address a variety of emerging issues, such as threatened and endangered species, climate change, and conflicts between subsistence users and recreationists."

The BLM is the principle multiple use land management agency in Alaska. BLM-managed public lands cover approximately 80 million acres—an area larger than the entire State of New Mexico. Plans released recently or currently underway, include:

■ **East Alaska (7.1 million acres):** The Record of Decision was signed on Sept. 7, 2007. Implementation is underway, including releasing 82,500 acres from Public Land Order 5150 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Utility Corridor. BLM-Alaska will release a proposed action for the Delta National Wild and Scenic River corridor and is working on implementation-level planning timelines for the Slana Settlement area, Delta Range, and other areas.

■ **Ring of Fire (1.3 million acres):** BLM published the Proposed RMP/Final EIS on Aug. 25, 2006 for BLM lands in

Southeast Alaska, Southcentral Alaska, and the Aleutian Islands. BLM responded to two protests. The Record of Decision was released Mar. 21, 2008. Plans begin soon for the Haines Special Recreation Management Area.

■ **Kobuk-Seward Peninsula (11.9 million acres):** BLM released the Proposed RMP/EIS on Sept. 28, 2007. Protest resolutions addressed a conflict between sport hunting and subsistence use in the Squirrel River, access, transportation, mining, water quality, and economic opportunities. The Record of Decision is expected soon.

■ **Bay (1.9 million acres):** BLM released the Proposed RMP/EIS for the Bristol Bay/Goodnews Bay region on Dec. 7, 2007. BLM-Alaska is addressing concerns expressed during the planning effort to designate 36,000 acres as the Carter Spit Area of Critical Environmental Concern, revocation of ANCSA(d)(1) land withdrawals, mineral exploration and development, sustainable habitat and subsistence uses, mineral withdrawal, recreation use, access, and special designations.

■ **Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (23 million acres):** The public comment period for the Draft Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/EIS ended Nov. 6, 2007; The Final Supplemental IAP/EIS is expected to be released this summer.

■ **Colville River:** BLM-Alaska is working on the management plan and environmental assessment for the Colville River Special Area, scheduled for public release May 16, 2008.

■ **Eastern Interior (34 million acres/8 million BLM-managed):** BLM-Alaska is working on the Analysis of the Management Situation for the Eastern Interior RMP, scheduled for completion by late Sept. 2008. The Record of Decision is scheduled for complete by Sept. 2010.

## Land is Changing Hands – Alaska Land Transfer Program

BLM-Alaska is responsible for transferring title from federal public lands to individual Alaska Natives, Native corporations, and the State of Alaska. BLM must adjudicate conflicting applications, issue administrative decisions, complete cadastral surveys, and convey land titles. Filing deadlines for final land selection titles are June 2008 for Native regional corporations and Dec. 2008 for the State of Alaska. Native village corporations submitted their selections to BLM by Dec. 10, 2007. The 2004 Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act helps facilitate land transfers, the Act does not relieve BLM of time-consuming and expensive required surveys. BLM-Alaska's goal is to convey 94% of the corporation land entitlements and 96% of the State of Alaska land entitlements by Dec. 2009.

Native corporations are entitled to 45.8 million acres and the State of Alaska to 104.5 million acres of federal public land. As of Feb. 2008, the corporations have received title to 38.5 million acres; the State has received title to 96.2 million acres; and less than 1,000 Native allotments filed under the 1906 Native Allotment Act or under the 1998 Native Veteran Allotment Act are still pending.



## Upcoming Events (you won't want to miss)

### March

- 29 6th CELEBRATING WOMEN IN SCIENCE.**  
Campbell Creek Science Center. Learn about Alaskan animals and more, join local women scientists for snowshoeing adventures. \$10 adult/\$5 child, register early, participation limited to 30. 907-267-1247.

### April - Alaska Archaeology Month

- 3-6 GREAT ALASKA SPORTSMAN SHOW** and BLM-ALASKA booth  
<http://www.greatalaskasportsmanshow.com/>
- 9-13 GCI ARCTIC MAN SKI & SNO GO CLASSIC**-Summit Lake.  
<http://www.arcticman.com/>
- 14 RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL** nominations/application process closes. Call 907-271-5555 to get an application packet.  
[www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html)
- 16 CULTURAL & HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF CAMPBELL CREEK**, Campbell Creek Science Center with Cherie Northon. Learn about changes that came with Anchorage's beginnings in 1915 to the present.
- 26 HEART RUN** at the University of Alaska-Anchorage.  
<http://www.heartrun.com/>

### May

- 11 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT THE ALASKA ZOO.** Bird Treatment and Learning Center, Alaska Audubon, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$7 adults/\$5 children (mothers free as it is Mother's Day), Tamara Mills, 907-786-3517
- 21 THE BIRDS ARE BACK!**  
Rich Capitan from Audubon Alaska discusses what birds to look and listen for: Campbell Creek Science Center. 907-267-1247.

### June

- 7 CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**  
15th Anniversary! Campbell Creek Science Center, 267-1247. 8:30-1:30.

**Find ongoing recreational opportunities, exhibits, and publications in BLM public rooms and visitor centers**



## New Iditarod Visitor Guide Hits the Trail

Alaska Geographic has published a new visitor guide on the Iditarod National Historic Trail through a partnership with BLM and the Iditarod Historic Trail

Alliance. Covering the full length of the historic route, this issue provides information on the historic Iditarod Trail and emphasizes the Trail segments easily accessible to the public from the road system. The guide includes maps, regional attractions, trail history, and recreational opportunities. Look for this guide at Alaska Public Lands Information Centers, other visitor centers in towns along the Trail, or at the Great Alaska Sportsman Show.

<http://www.iditarod100.org>

## Celebrate the 15th Annual National Trails Day

**Campbell Creek Science Center**  
Saturday, June 7, 2008, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Spend a morning improving the Anchorage Far North Bicentennial Park and BLM Campbell Tract trails. The fun begins at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center, East 68th Avenue and Elmore Road. Bring hiking/work shoes and gloves if you have them. Tools, equipment, and a free lunch will be provided for volunteers. We will be working on various projects located throughout Campbell Tract.

Registration is from 8:30-9 a.m. For more information or to register in advance, call the Campbell Creek Science Center, 267-1247, or e-mail [luise\\_woelflein@blm.gov](mailto:luise_woelflein@blm.gov).

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## BLM-ALASKA FRONTIERS... Taking it Outside in Alaska

Thom Jennings



**Snowshoers and skiers getting gear to hit the trails on Winter Trails Day**

Winter in Alaska is full of special adventures and excitement—from sled dog races to Winter Trails Day. In this issue, we're celebrating these events and how they impact BLM-Alaska managed public lands.

This newsletter is for you, so please keep communicating what you'd like to know about BLM-Alaska or see in BLM-ALASKA FRONTIERS. Don't forget to subscribe, so you'll keep getting your issues.

—Karen J. Laubenstein  
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